GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – Forest Department – Sri K. Ashok Kumar, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Division, Vijayawada - Departmental Proceedings under Rule 20 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991 – Article of Charges - Issued.

Environment, Forest , Science & Technology (Sec.IV) Department

G.O.RT.No. 43 **Dated: 28-02-2017**

ORDER:

1. It is proposed to hold an enquiry against Sri K. Ashok Kumar, Deputy Conservator of Forests (State Cadre), at present working as Divisional Forest Officer Social Forestry Division, Vijayawada in accordance with the procedure laid down in Rule – 20 of the A.P. Civil Services (CC & A) Rules, 1991.

2. The substance of the imputations of misconduct or misbehaviour in respect of which the enquiry is proposed to be held is set out in the enclosed statement of article of charges (Annexure – I). A list of documents by which and a list of witnesses by whom, the article of charge is proposed to be sustained are also enclosed (Annexure – II & III).

3. Sri K. Ashok Kumar, Deputy Conservator of Forests (State Cadre) is directed to submit within (10) days of the receipt of this order, a written statement of his defense.

4. Sri K. Ashok Kumar, Deputy Conservator of Forests (State Cadre), is informed that an inquiry will be held only in respect of those Articles of Charge which as are not admitted. He should therefore, specifically admit or deny the Article of Charges.

5. Sri K. Ashok Kumar, Deputy Conservator of Forests (State Cadre) is further informed that if he does not submit his written statement of defense within the time specified in para (3) above, further action will be taken based on the material available.

6. Attention of Sri K. Ashok Kumar, Deputy Conservator of Forests, (State Cadre) is invited to Rule-24 of the A.P.C.S. (Conduct) Rules, 1964, under which no Government servant shall bring or attempt to bring any political or outside influence to bear upon any superior authority to further interests in respect of matters pertaining to his service under the Government. If any representation is received on his behalf from another person in respect of any matter dealt within these proceedings, it will be presumed that Sri K. Ashok Kumar, Deputy Conservator of Forests, (State Cadre) is aware of such a representation and that it has been made at his instance and action will be taken against him for violation of Rule-24 of the A.P.C.S. (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

7. This order is sent to Sri K. Ashok Kumar, Deputy Conservator of Forest (State Cadre) in-duplicate. He is requested to acknowledge the receipt with date on duplicate copy and return the same to the Government immediately.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

G.ANANTHA RAMU
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri K. Ashok Kumar, Deputy Conservator of Forests (State Cadre)
(Through the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, (HOFF), Andhra Pradesh, Guntur)

[PTO]

Copy to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh, Guntur. He is requested to serve the Government Orders on the Deputy Conservator of Forests, obtain his dated acknowledgement on the duplicate copy and submit the same to Government immediately.

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//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

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STATEMENT OF ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SRI. K.ASHOK KUMAR, DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION, VIJAYAWADA COMMITTED THE FOLLOWING IRREGULARITIES.

ARTICLE I:

"That Sri K. Ashok Kumar, Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Vijayawada took decision on his own and procured Woven Sacks for raising / conversion of bag plants during 2014-15 contrary to the existing norms / approved action plan, without bringing the facts properly to the notice of the District Collector, without getting permission from the higher ups and contrary to the instructions of the higher ups issued at the time of field inspection, as a result infructuous expenditure of Rs.1,23,64,287/-".

ARTICLE II:

"That Sri K. Ashok Kumar, Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Vijayawada exhibited gross negligence of duty and failed to take corrective measures and not given timely instructions to the subordinates and allowed the bills for the work which were not potential on his inspection, resulting infructuous expenditure of Rs.31,34,697/- On failure of nurseries".

ARTICLE III:

"That Sri K. Ashok Kumar, Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Vijayawada failed to monitor / maintain the ratio of wage / labour : material component at 60:40 in the light of NREGS Guidelines resulting adverse effect on the expenditure in material / labour component of the entire state under MGNREG scheme".

ARTICLE IV:

"That Sri K. Ashok Kumar, Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Vijayawada has executed agreements with the supplier before getting correct administrative approval from the District Collector and also exhibited disobedience towards the instructions of the higher authorities at the time of field inspection."

ARTICLE V:

"That Sri K. Ashok Kumar, Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Vijayawada failed to submit his fortnightly tour diaries as per the code provisions AP Forest Department code volume-I".

ARTICLE VI:

"That Sri K. Ashok Kumar, Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Vijayawada failed to discharge his legitimate duty in supervising the works carried out by the staff".

That, Sri K. Ashok Kumar, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Division, Vijayawada by his above mentioned acts has exhibited lack of integrity, discipline and devotion to duty and conduct unbecoming of a Government Servant and there by contravened Rule. No.3 of the A.P.C.S. (Conduct) Rules, 1964. Hence the Article of charges.

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ANNEXURE - I

STATEMENT OF IMPUTATIONS AND MISCONDUCT OR MISBEHAVIOUR IN SUPPORT OF ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SRI K. ASHOK KUMAR, DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION, VIJAYAWADA .

ARTICLE I:

"That Sri K. Ashok Kumar, Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Vijayawada took decision on his own and procured Woven Sacks for raising / conversion of bag plants during 2014-15 contrary to the existing norms / approved action plan, without bringing the facts properly to the notice of the District Collector, without getting permission from the higher ups and contrary to the instructions of the higher ups issued at the time of field inspection, as a result infructuous expenditure of Rs.1,23,64,287/-".

Basis of Charges:

The Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), A.P., Hyderabad in Rc.no.1216/2014/Sch-II, dt.27.10.2014 communicated approved targets for raising nurseries, where in, the target in respect of Social Forestry Division, Vijayawada was 115 lakh raising of bag plants under MGNREGS during 2014-15. After receipt of the targets, the Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Vijayawada submitted note dt. 05.12.2014 to the District Collector, Krishna District duly submitting the technical sanction to a tune of Rs.486.317 lakh and got the Administrative sanction on dt.07.12.2014. Later, the Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Vijayawada submitted another note dt. 09.12.2014 to the District Collector, Krishna District with a request to revise administrative sanction to a tune of Rs.957.863 lakh by increasing the unskilled wage cost from Rs.2,11,77,148/- to Rs.3,38,90,494/- and material cost from Rs.2,74,54,552/- to Rs.6,18,95,806/- respectively. He got the administrative sanction from the District Collector, Krishna District for Rs.957.863 lakh on dt.14.12.2014. In both the notes submitted on dated i.e., 05.12.2014 and 09.12.2014, the Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Vijayawada committed to raise 16.02 lakh of seedlings into Rs.8"x12" size bags and 2.62 lakh of 12"x18" size bags. He did not indicate about the raising of tall plant nurseries by using Woven sack bags of 8"x12" and 12"x18" size, the number of Woven sack bags intended to be purchased, cost difference between the poly bags and woven sacks and suitability for raising the woven sack bag nursery was not justified. Even he did not discuss the matter in detailed with the District Administration before getting administrative sanction, for raising of tall plants nursery by utilizing the Woven sack bags. It is the basic thing to arrive at the targets well in advance and see about the availability of the planting material fit for transplanting into the Woven sack bags. Generally as per the Forest Schedule of Rates and norms, all these things are to be done during the month of October/November so as to get good quality seedlings to the next rainy season. By that time sufficient primary stock should have been readily available in the Division for conversion. But, the Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Vijayawada took decision on his own for purchase of woven sack bags under the guise of the administrative sanction accorded by the District Collector. He issued work orders to the concerned firms in his Rc.no.707/2014/DM, dt.20.12.2014 for supply of 16.02 lakh of "8x12" woven sacks and 2.30 lakh of "12x18" Woven sack bags. During the field visit in the month of January, 2015 Sri S.K. Chhottray, IFS., Addl.PCCF (SF), O/o the Prl.CCF, (HOFF) AP., Hyderabad had cautioned the Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Vijayawada not to purchase Woven sack bags as it would enhance the material component cost. This was accepted by the Divisional Forest Officer even then, the Divisional Forest

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Officer purchased the Woven sacks in the month of February, 2015 and March, 2015 when he was fully aware of that he was not having that many seedlings for conversion into tall plants and also procurement of planting material from outside sources was capricious. As per the report of the APCCF, SF&WP Circle, Vijayawada in Rc.no.1151/2015-M4, dt.10.10.2016 and 20.10.2016, the value of Woven sack bags purchased was Rs.1,62,55,000/-. If the poly bags are purchased, the value would have Rs.38,90,713/-. Hence the loss sustained to Government is Rs.1,23,64,287/- which is due to purchase of 14.24 lakh Woven sack bags both under MGNREGS and 13th Finance Commission Grant put together and which was not utilized for the purpose of tall plants.

From the note submitted by the Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Vijayawada to the District Collector it is noticed that several estimates which will come under the purview of Conservator of Forests / Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, were split by limiting the estimated cost below Rs.10 lakh and got them sanctioned by the Divisional Forest Officer. The action of splitting up of the estimates is contrary to the provisions of AP Financial Code.

The Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), A.P., Hyderabad in Ref.No.20259/2012/PMU-3, dt.29.05.2012 issued Circular instructions for use of Polybags in raising of Nurseries and arranging the same in 1MX10M size beds in each and every nursery. There is no mention in the Action Plan communicated by the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), A.P., Hyderabad in Ref.no.2231/2014/Sch-III/AP, dt.18.12.2014, regarding the purchase of woven sacks or raising nurseries in Woven sacks. The Forest Schedule of rates of Rajahmundry Circle permitted to use different sizes of Polythene bags in raising of Bag plant nursery. In the Forest Schedule of Rates of Rajahmundry Circle, it is clearly mentioned at Sl.No.3 that "if any item of work is found essential and not included in the present Forest Schedule of Rates, it is for the Divisional Forest Officer to submit necessary proposals duly submitting field data after verifying himself on the field and get the rates approved from the Conservator of Forests, before actually executing the work and incurring expenditure. Otherwise, the concerned Divisional Forest Officer will be personally held responsible for future consequences".

In the instant case the Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Vijayawada took the decision on his own contrary to the existing norms / approved action plan and procured the woven sack bags instead of Poly bags. He did not submit proposals to the higher ups in order to get the permission for large scale purchase and use of Woven sack bags. He failed to bring the facts to the notice of the District Collector either at the time of submission of note for administrative sanction or to the notice of the District Collector in person before getting administrative approval. He also failed to follow the instructions of the higher ups issued during the field inspection.

Thus it is evident that, the Divisional Forest Officer failed to maintain absolute integrity, devotion to duty, sense of propriety, exhibited conduct unbecoming of a Government employee, failed to perform his official duties conferred on him in his best judgement and acted in a manner, derogatory to the prestige of Government, in violation to Rule 3 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Service (Conduct) Rules 1964. **Hence the Charge**.

ARTICLE II:

"That Sri K. Ashok Kumar, Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Vijayawada exhibited gross negligence of duty and failed to take corrective measures and not given timely instructions to the subordinates and allowed the bills for the work which were not potential on his inspection, resulting infructuous expenditure of Rs.31,34,697/- On failure of nurseries".

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Basis of Charge:

The Addl. Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry & Working Plan Circle, Vijayawada inspected the nurseries on 20.05.2015 and found that the nurseries were raised in Vissannapeta SF Section, Gannavaram SF Section and Nuzvid SF Section of Nuzvid Range and observed that the condition of the nurseries is found to be very bad, even though incurred huge amount of expenditure on purchase of bags, clearing site, purchase of Farm Yard Manure / Preparation of Potting mixture, filling of bags without taking sufficient steps in time for success of the nurseries which caused failure of nurseries resulting huge infructuous expenditure of Rs.31,34,697/-.

1. **Gannavaram nursery of Gannavaram SF Section, Nuzvid SF Range:**

As against the nursery target of 1,95,000 having 5”x9”, 8”x12” and 12”x18” size bags, 1,45,000 bags of 5”x9” size were purchased. Out of these a quantity of 1,00,000 bags were filled with potting mixture and 75,000 bags were transplanted. During the field inspection the APCCF, SF&WP Circle, Vijayawada found that 75000 bags were transplanted with seedlings but 25,000 bags were left without transplanting and 70,000 bags found missing resulting infructuous expenditure of Rs.59,429/-. Further it was observed that only 4400 seedlings have attained plantable height, many causalities were seen and 24000 seedlings can be expected from this nursery, if proper care is taken.

2. **Agiripalli nursery of Gannavaram SF Section, Nuzvid SF Range:**

As against the nursery target of 3,65,000 having 5”x9”, 8”x12” and 12”x18” size bags, 3,65,000 bags were purchased and out of that a quantity of 2,00,000 nos bags were filled and transplanted. During the field inspection of the APCCF, SF&WP Circle, Vijayawada, it was observed that the nursery has failed due to negligence in late bag filling, and late casualty replacement resulting infructuous expenditure of Rs.5,69,481/-.

3. **Thotapalli nursery of Gannavaram SF Section, Nuzvid SF Range:**

As against the nursery target of 2,36,000 having 5”x9”, 8”x12” and 12”x18” size bags, 2,36,000 bags were purchased and out of that a quantity of 1,98,000 nos bags were filled and transplanted. During the field inspection of the APCCF, SF&WP Circle, Vijayawada, it was observed that the nursery has failed due to negligence in late bag filling, and late casualty replacement resulting infructuous expenditure of Rs.3,40,450/-

4. **Veerapanenigudem nursery of Gannavaram SF Section, Nuzvid SF Range:**

As against the nursery target of 5,19,000 having 5”x9”, 8”x12” and 12”x18” size bags, 5,19,000 bags were purchased and out of that a quantity of 2,30,000 nos bags were filled and transplanted. During the field inspection of the APCCF, SF&WP Circle, Vijayawada, it was observed that the nursery has failed due to negligence in late bag filling, and late casualty replacement resulting infructuous expenditure of Rs.8,74,274/-

5. **Kondaparva-II nursery of Vissannapeta SF Section, Nuzvid SF Range:**

As against the nursery target of 5,37,000 having 5”x9”, 8”x12” and 12”x18” size bags 5,37,000 bags were purchased and out of that a quantity of 3,64,860 nos bags were filled and transplanted. During the field inspection of the APCCF, SF&WP Circle, Vijayawada, it was observed that the nursery has failed due to negligence in late bag filling, and late casualty replacement resulting infructuous expenditure of Rs.5,68,355/-

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6. <u>B.V.Gudem nursery of Gannavaram SF Section, Nuzvid SF Range:</u>

As against the nursery target of 3,02,000 having 5”x9”, 8”x12” and 12”x18” size bags 3,02,000 bags were purchased and out of that a quantity of 2,88,800 nos bags were filled and transplanted. During the field inspection of the APCCF, SF&WP Circle, Vijayawada, it was observed that the nursery has failed due to negligence in maintaining the plantation by regular weeding, watering etc., late bag filling, and late casualty replacement resulting infructuous expenditure of Rs.2,97,879/-.

7. <u>Ramannagudem nursery of Nuzvid SF Section, Nuzvid SF Range:</u>

As against the nursery target of 1,99,000 having 5”x9”, 8”x12” and 12”x18” size bags, 1,99,000 bags were purchased and out of that a quantity of 50,000 bags were filled and transplanted. During the field inspection of the APCCF, SF&WP Circle, Vijayawada, it was observed that the nursery has failed due to negligence in late bag filling, and late casualty replacement resulting infructuous expenditure of Rs.4,24,829/-.

Further he allowed to transplant primary stock(seedlings) into the Woven sack bags in the month of May, 2015 which is against the calendar of Operations under nursery activities, as a result large scale casualties were occurred in Nurseries of Nuzvid Range.

On consolidation of the infructuous expenditure noticed by the APCCF/CF, SF&WP Circle, Vijayawada as narrated in the statement enclosed to APCCF/CF, SF&WP Circle, Vijayawada Rc.no.1151/2015/M4, dt.10.10.2016 the total infructuous expenditure comes to Rs.31,34,697/- as detailed below. The details are appended.

Sl. no	Name of the Nursery	Name of the SF Section	Name of the SF Range	Expenditure found to be infructuous Rs.
1	Gannavaram	Gannavaram	Nuzvid	59429
2	Agiripalli	Gannavaram	Nuzvid	569481
3	Thotapalli	Gannavaram	Nuzvid	340450
4	Veerapanenigudem	Gannavaram	Nuzvid	874274
5	Kondaparva-II	Vissannapeta	Nuzvid	568355
6	B.V.Gudem	Nuzvid	Nuzvid	297879
7	Ramannagudem	Nuzvid	Nuzvid	424829
	Total			**3134697**

As seen from the above it is observed that no care has been taken in taking up the nursery operations in time. Due to late bag filling and late transplanting, lot of casualities have occurred and as on the date of inspection of the Addl. Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, SF & WP, Vijayawada the seedlings have not attained the plantable size. For successful raising of nursery so as to get good quality of seedlings, calendar of operations invariably is to be followed. In this case there is negligence in implementing the timely operations. This work was not executed in a single day and the amount involved in it is not meagre and the same was not incurred on a single day. The Divisional Forest Officer himself should have inspected the nurseries very often and noticed the deviation from timely operations. Being the head of the Division, he should have take, corrective measures and give proper

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instructions then and there itself by paying special attention in order to get the success of the nursery. Moreover, the Divisional Forest Officer, himself having powers to admit the expenditure under MGNREGS on production of M.Books and job cards. The payment has to be done only after satisfaction of the work. In this case the Divisional Forest Officer admitted the expenditure even though knowing the condition in the field. Therefore, he is responsible for the infructuous expenditure.

Had the Divisional Forest Officer conducted frequent field inspections during the course of raising the nurseries, took the corrective measures by paying special attention in order to get the success of the nursery and not admitted the bills for the works which were not potential, there would not have be infructuous expenditure. These saplings were supposed to be used during 2015 season. Photographs submitted along with report of the PCCF & HoFF gives very bad picture of the bags as they were damaged and torned due to no watering and improper filling of soil mixture. **Hence the Charge.**

ARTICLE III:

"That Sri K. Ashok Kumar, Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Vijayawada failed to monitor / maintain the ratio of wage / labour: material component at 60:40 in the light of NREGS Guidelines resulting adverse effect on the expenditure in material / labour component of the entire state under MGNREG scheme".

Basis of charge:

It is noticed that during the year 2014-15 an amount of Rs. 301.831 was incurred for raising / conversion of bag nurseries in SF Division, Vijayawada out of which an amount of Rs.65.901 lakh was incurred towards wages and Rs.235.929 lakh was incurred towards material cost. Therefore the ratio in between wage and material cost is 22:78 (As per report of APCCF/CF, SF&WP Circle, Vijayawada in Rc.No.1151/2015-M4, dt.20.10.2016)

As per the chapter 7, at 7.1.5 of operational guidelines 2012 under MGNREGS Act,2005 the ratio for wage and material cost should be maintained at 60:40 at GP level for all works to be taken up by GP and for works to be taken up by all other agencies. It should be maintained at the block / intermediate Panchayat level.

The Divisional Forest Officer being the authority for authorizing payment under MGNREGS has to monitor the ratio specified under the above said guidelines. But in the instant case the DFO utterly failed to monitor / maintain the standard ratio violating the above provisions / guidelines resulting adverse affect on the expenditure in material / labour component of the entire state under MGNREG scheme". **Hence the Charge.**

ARTICLE IV:

"That Sri K. Ashok Kumar, Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Vijayawada has executed agreements with the supplier before getting correct administrative approval from the District Collector and also exhibited disobedience towards the instructions of the higher authorities at the time of field inspection."

Basis of Charge:

The Divisional Forest Officer, SF Division, Vijayawada initially got the administrative approval of the District Collector on 07.12.2014 for Rs.486.371 lakh making provision for raising nursery with Polybags. Later, he moved a note on 09-12-2014 with a request for revised administrative approval. In fact the District Collector has given administrative approval on 14-12-2014.

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Meanwhile, the Divisional Forest Officer has executed agreement with M/s Vijayakrishna Plastics, Pedagantyada, Visakhapatnam on 09.12.2014 and another agreement with M/s Sujatha Electrical Industries, Guntur on 10.12.2014 and the other agreement with M/s Nissy Poly packs, Guntur on 10.12.2014 for supply of polythene bags and HDPE Woven sack bags during 2014-15. It shows that the Divisional Forest Officer hide the fact of purchase of woven sack bags before the District Administration and also concealed the fact of execution of the agreement with suppliers for woven sack bags at the time of submitting note on 09-12-2014 to the District Administration. As such the Agreement executed with the suppliers are not valid and they are entered with ill motive .

As per the agreement conditions no.3 "the supply should be commenced immediately after placing orders by the Divisional Forest Officer and should be completed within (7) days as per urgency of the scheme and time to time guidelines, failing which the agreement can be terminated without assigning any reasons. Agreement Condition no. 4 states that the agreement may be terminated at any time due to non supply of Quantity in full. The agreements were executed on 09-12-2014 and 10-12-2014. As such the material has to be supplied by the suppliers in any case within (7) days. As per the report of the APCCF/Conservator of Forests, SF&WP Circle, Vijayawada, 10.12 lakhs Woven Sacks were available at the time of field inspection of the APCCF (SF). Supply of 10.12 lakh woven sacks, within a period of (7) days, by the suppliers is far away from truth. Moreover, 4.12 lakhs woven sacks were procured after the field inspection of the higher ups. It shows that the Divisional Forest Officer has deliberately allowed the suppliers to supply the sacks at their wish and will by violating the agreement conditions.

At the time of the filed inspection the APCCF, SF, O/o the PCCF, AP, Hyderabad has noticed purchase of 10,12,000 no. of Woven sack bags for use in nursery raising/ conversion of tall plants during 2014-15. He specifically instructed the DFO, SF Division, Vijayawada not to purchase Woven Sack bags in the presence of the APCCF, SF&WP Circle, Vijayawada. Despite, the DFO, SF division, Vijayawada purchased 4,12,000 Woven sack bags, contrary to the instructions of the higher authorities.

It shows that the Divisional Forest Officer has procured the material of woven sacks after completion of (7) days by violating the agreement conditions. Despite specific instructions of the higher ups at the time of inspection he allowed to supply Woven Sacks, even he is having power, as per the agreement condition, to discontinue to purchase the woven sacks. **Hence the Charge.**

ARTICLE V:

"That Sri K. Ashok Kumar, Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Vijayawada failed to submit his fortnightly tour diaries as per the codal provisions of AP Forest Department code volume-I".

Basis of Charge:

As per the section 114 of AP Forest Department code volume-I, the DFO has to submit fortnightly tour diaries to the CF within five (5) Days after completion of every fortnight.

As per the report of the APCCF, SF&WP Circle, Vijayawada in Rc.no.497/2015-M2, dt.06.07.2015 the DFO has not submitted his tour diaries since 01.05.2014 till 06.07.2015 to the APCCF/CF, SF&WP Circle, Vijayawada. Therefore he failed to comply the codal provisions of AP Forest Department code in submitting his tour diaries. **Hence the Charge.**

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ARTICLE VI:

"That Sri K. Ashok Kumar, Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Vijayawada failed to discharge his legitimate duty in supervising the works carried out by the staff".

Basis of charge:

As per the Section 151 of Andhra Pradesh Forest Department Code Volume-I

i) The Divisional Forest Officer is responsible for the general management and protection of the forests situated in his division, the administration of the division under his charge the execution of all forest works in the division and exercise direct control over the forest establishment employed therein.

ii) He exercises a direct control over the Forest establishment in the division and it is his duty to see that the Executive, protective, Ministerial and other forest staff in the division maintain discipline and attend to their duties properly.

iii) He will conduct inspection of all forest works in the division and check-measure the works as prescribed in this code.

The Addl. PCCF/CF, SF&WP Circle, Vijayawada during his field inspection noticed that there is a negligence on the part of Forest Range Officer, Forest Section Officer in late bag filing, late transplantation contrary to the calendar of operations as a result failure of nurseries and infructuous expenditure of Rs.31,34,697/-. It shows that Sri K. Ashok Kumar, DFO, SF division, Vijayawada being the head of the Division failed to supervise the works carried out by the subordinate staff. Thereby he violated the duties and responsibilities conferred on him as per the codal provisions. **Hence the Charge.**

G.ANANTHA RAMU
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

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ANNEXURE - II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BY WHICH THE ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SRI. K.ASHOK KUMAR, DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION, VIJAYAWADA ARE PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED

1. Addl. Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, SF&WP Circle, Vijayawada Rc.No.497/2015/M2, dt.12.06.2015
2. Addl. Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, SF&WP Circle, Vijayawada Rc.No.497/2015/M2, dt.06.07.2015
3. Addl. Prl.Chief Conservator of Forests, SF&WP Circle, Vijayawada Rc.No.497/2015/M2, dt.25.07.2015
4. Divisional Forest Officer, Vigilance, O/o Prl.CCF, AP, Hyderabad Rc.No.12/DFO(Vig), dt.05.01.2016.
5. Addl. Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, SF&WP Circle, Vijayawada Rc.no.1151/2015/M4, dt.08.08.2016
6. Addl. Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, SF&WP Circle, Vijayawada Rc.no.1151/2015/M4, dt.10.10.2016
7. Addl. Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, SF&WP Circle, Vijayawada Rc.no.1151/2015/M4, dt.20.10.2016
8. Addl. Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, SF&WP Circle, Vijayawada Rc.no.1151/2015/M4, dt.24.10.2016

G.ANANTHA RAMU
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

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ANNEXURE - III

LIST OF WITNESSES BY WHOM THE ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SRI. K.ASHOK KUMAR, DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION, VIJAYAWADA ARE TO BE SUSTAINED

1) Sri C.K. Mishra, IFS., Addl. Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests
2) Sri R. Srinivasa Reddy, Divisional Forest Officer ((Vig), O/o the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

G.ANANTHA RAMU
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

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